

Vital Statistics Report Lancaster County, Nebraska 1999

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3140 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Bruce D. Dart, MS
Health Director

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGIC SERVICES
(402) 441-6271

Pramod Dwivedi, MSW, MS,
Public Health Epidemiologist

John Steinauer
Epi/G.I.S. Analyst

Padmanabha Raju Kakarlapudi
Epidemiology Intern

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INTRODUCTION

This is the twenty-second annual Lancaster County Vital Statistics Report published by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD). This report contains vital statistics data for the 1999 calendar year. In addition to birth and death statistics, this report contains 1999 marriage and divorce data for Lancaster County. Information contained in this report is based on the vital records of the State of Nebraska, which were sent to LLCHD by the Section of Data Management, Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

Historical data, Year 2010 Objectives, and data for Nebraska have been used where relevant to show trends and comparisons. Birth and mortality rates are calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Census. The 1999 population of Lancaster County was estimated at 237,657.

Data provided by the Nebraska Birth Defects Registry were used to examine trends of congenital anomalies and their distribution by age and race of the mother. This year we have used new cause of death classification. This new classification is the tenth revision of International Classification of Disease (ICD-10), which replaced ICD-9. The ICD-9 was in use during 1979-1998.

New in this report is the addition of one GIS map that depicts infant mortality rate. (See the Appendix).

Age adjusted rates are used to examine the difference in death rates from year to year. Adjusted rates are also utilized to compare county deaths with those of the State.

Vital Statistics Report (1999) is divided in three different sections: 1) Birth Statistics, 2) Death Statistics, and 3) Marriage and Divorce Statistics.

Birth Statistics

This section presents 1999 birth data of Lancaster County according to a wide variety of characteristics. Presented data are for demographic characteristics (age, live birth order, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and educational attainment); maternal characteristics (medical risk factors, weight gain, tobacco and alcohol use); medical care utilization by pregnant women (prenatal care, obstetric procedures, complication of labor or delivery, attendant at birth, and method of delivery); and infant characteristics (period of gestation, birth weight, Apgar score, abnormal conditions, and multiple births). Birth and fertility rates are also presented by age, live birth order, race, Hispanic origin and marital status. Trends in birth, fertility, maternal, and infant characteristics are described and interpreted. In addition, birth defects found among the infants are also discussed.

This section covers description tabulation of data reported on birth certificates of the 3,594 births that occurred in Lancaster County in 1999.

Death Statistics

This section presents 1999 death certificate data of Lancaster County. The death data are presented by a wide variety of characteristics of the deceased. It discusses leading causes of death, infant mortality, and fetal deaths. Presented are also unintentional injury death, and disposition and place of death. Trends in death (gender specific), infant mortality rate, fetal death rate are also described.

This section covers descriptive tabulations of age-adjusted rates (for comparison) of data reported on death certificates of the 1,682 deaths that occurred in Lancaster County in 1999.

Marriage and Divorce Statistics

Marriage and divorce section is a compilation of 2,399 marriages and 1,111 divorces that took place in Lancaster County in 1999. Marriages and divorces are described according to age, race and education. A profile of children of the divorcees is also presented.

Highlights

- i The Infant Mortality Rate for non-White is over four times higher than Whites at 20.5 per 1000 live births to 4.9 per 1000 White births.
- i Cancer is the number one leading cause of death slightly surpassing heart disease for the first time.
- i Race is far more significant. A determinant of low birth weight than smoking, alcohol use or both combined.
- i Increasing number of women having children at older ages.
- i Steady increase in non-marital births since 1978 from 98 per 1,000 to 243 per 1,000 women. Non-marital births were the highest among the Black and American-Indian mothers at 56.4% and 62.3%. Hispanic non-marital births were nearly double that of White at 45.8% as compared to 22.7% for the White births. Asians had the lowest rate of non-marital births at 19.3%.
- i Mean age of death for males has decreased 0.3 years in the last decade.

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Please direct comments or recommendations to:

Email: epi@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Telephone: 402/441-6271

Fax: 402/441-8323